

# MAMMALS

## BEFORE 1: Mammal Sort

**Before** your visit to introduce students to the diversity of mammals in our area. Students sort mammal and mammal track images based on their own observations. Possible sorts include – body covering (long fur, short fur, fur color...), types of limbs, number of toes, hooved/not hooved, wild/domestic. Students then explain their sorts to each other.

**Standards Addressed:** Science Foundational Blocks 1, 3. Science (2018): K.1c, K3; 1.1c & f, 1.5. Mathematics Foundation Block 6

### Materials

- Mammal cards (40 total)

### Lesson Preparation

1. Group students into teams of 4-5.
2. Print and cut out two sets of the mammal cards. You may wish to pre-arrange them for targeted sorts.

### Instructional Strategy

1. Give each student group 8 cards. Ask them to look at the cards and talk about what they see. Tell them to think about different ways to sort the cards.
2. Ask each group to share one possible way to sort. Record these ideas on a board or other visual.
3. Tell the groups that they get to sort their cards any way they want.
4. When the sorts are complete, do a gallery walk and have each group explain their sort.
  - a. Ask for students' observations and thoughts. Do they agree with the way the animals were sorted?
  - b. Do any of the cards from one group fit into the card from another group? Why or why not?
5. Add any additional sort ideas to the list. To reinforce learning, do another sort based on student ideas.



# MAMMALS

## Mammal Cards

big brown bat



bottlenose dolphin

cottontail rabbit



humpback whale



black bear



Norway rat



Virginia big-eared bat



woodchuck (groundhog)



# MAMMALS

beaver



little brown bat



bobcat



raccoon



white-tailed deer



Allegheny woodrat



# MAMMALS

gray fox



short-tailed shrew



coyote



spotted skunk



red fox



striped skunk



# MAMMALS

eastern mole



chipmunk



fox squirrel



star-nosed mole



house mouse



gray squirrel



# MAMMALS

white-footed mouse



flying squirrel



muskrat



meadow vole



Virginia opossum



mink



# MAMMALS



harbor seal



fisher

Florida manatee



Least weasel



eastern red bat



river otter

